

WINTER

2026

**Now offering OLLI
courses at the
Keowee Key
Event Center!**

New excursion

locations include:

Watt Family Innovation
Center, Hurricane
Creek Hydroponic
Farm, Spartanburg
Planetarium and Maker
Lab Tour and more!

New course titles include:

*Transylvania - Beyond Dracula; A
Widow's Journey to Financial
Freedom; Jeffrey Epstein: Naked
Truth; Line Dancing: Where Fitness
Meets Friendship; Wearing the
Legacy: The Story of the Clemson
Ring; A Valentine's Day Brunch Menu;
History of Sicily; Junk Art Class;
Different Generations, Different
Perspectives, Skeleton Stories:
Forensic Anthropology at Clemson
University and more!*

**Registration opens
December 15, 2025**

Register in person, by phone, by
mail or online at:
www.olliatclermson.org

**Different ways to
participate this term:**

In-person courses at the Cheezem
Education Center; Evening courses at the
Cheezem Education Center; In-person
courses at the Keowee Key Event Center;
Osher Online courses to participate from
home; Outdoor Adventures and Day Trips


at Clemson University

The Cheezem Education
Center is open Monday
through Friday, 9:00 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m.



LITERARY LATITUDES: Fiction from Around the World

Our Literary Latitudes book series continues this term, focusing on India's rich literature and culture. Join these conversations facilitated by Clemson's international students. We invite Clemson's international students to select a book that they feel represents their culture and country, its traditions and its future. You have the opportunity to read the book and then engage with our international students around the themes in the book, as well as more generally about their lives, work, and aspirations. What better way to connect with our global community and learn from their experiences?

***He Conquered the Jungle (Athadu Adavini Jahinchadu)* by Dr. Kesava Reddy**

Tuesday, February 3 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

This brief but powerful Telugu novella tells the story of an old swineherd who ventures into the jungle at nightfall to search for his pregnant sow, relying on primeval instincts to fight off predators and protect the newborn piglets. The 70-year-old protagonist bravely faces all his hardships when he tries to save his sow and her piglets, serving as a symbol of human courage and the unyielding spirit in the face of life's challenges. The author Kesava Reddy's novellas are revered for their thematic depth and linguistic innovation, which have given his works enduring appeal.

Presented by: Chay Chennamsetty (Master's Candidate in Automotive Engineering)

***Indian Culture and India's Future* by Michel Danino**

Tuesday, April 7 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Danino's thought-provoking work explores questions of Indian identity and examines whether Indian civilization can be compared to a thousand-branched tree, discussing its achievements and global impact. French-born author Michel Danino, who has lived in India for over three decades, argues that Indian culture cannot be viewed as a relic of the past, but rather remains a dynamic force that defines India's identity and addresses today's global challenges. These are the forces and the present that shape the lives of India today, the very context of the lives of our two facilitators. You are certain to walk away from this book with a fresh perspective of India and its role in the world today.

Presented by: Sagar Vankit (Ph.D. Candidate in Human-Centered Computing) and Mohit Solanki (Master's Candidate in Construction Science and Management)

SAVE *the* DATE



Senator Thomas Alexander

Friday, February 13

11:00 a.m.

Cheezem Education Center

More details to come!

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HEALTH EXTENSION FOR DIABETES

CLEMSON® UNIVERSITY

A FREE COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATION AND SUPPORT GROUP WITH CLEMSON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

The program provides participants with diabetes education, self management resources, and support to better manage diabetes. Group members meet for 1 hour every other week for 8 sessions to share successes, challenges, and learn about diabetes. During the program, group members also receive ongoing support and health education through weekly health coaching calls.

WHEN?:

Starts January 27, 2026

Meets Tuesdays 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WHERE?:

OLLI at Clemson University
Cheezem Education Center
100 Thomas Green Blvd, Clemson, SC 29631

REGISTER:

REGISTRATION BEGINS 1/13/25
AND ENDS 2/10/25

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/health/programs/chronic/health-extension-for-diabetes.html>



QUESTIONS?

Contact
Kathryn Flynn
Rural Health Agent
kwflynn@clemson.edu
OR
864-916-6205

Get to Know Your OLLI BOARD OF ADVISORS

Dave Sabo, Chair
Sue Schneider, Vice Chair
David Potts, Past Chair
Carol Helander, Secretary
Gaines Hutcheson, At-Large Member
Bob McAlpine, At-Large Member
Sue Schneider, At-Large Member
Kim Warne, At-Large Member
The Board can be reached directly at
cuolliboa@gmail.com.

Free Programs This

The following activities are open to all current OLLI Members and those with an interest in joining OLLI. All programs are held at the Cheezem Education Center and are free but **require registration**. Please call 864-633-5242 to register.

New and Returning Member Orientation

Thursday, January 15 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Whether you're new to Clemson OLLI or returning from a hiatus, this orientation illustrates how OLLI ticks, who is who and how you can be part of your regional lifelong learning program! Refreshments provided.

Getting the Most Out of ChatGPT

Thursday, January 29 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This is a hands-on, learn-by-doing class designed for both recreational and business users who want to unlock the full potential of Open AI's ChatGPT. You will leave this class with practical skills you can use immediately, whether you want help writing contracts, re-searching complex topics, or crafting better communication. Requirements: bring your laptop or tablet, make sure you have a ChatGPT account - it can be free, or enhanced as a monthly subscription - and be ready to experiment with real-world examples. A one-month subscription to ChatGPT Plus (\$21) is highly encouraged to get the most out of the class. The usefulness of this information resource is limited only by your imagination!

Creative Inquiry - Where Great Minds Collaborate

Thursday, February 12 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Yes, there are new methods of teaching and learning! Come learn about one of them in current use by Clemson University's Creative Inquiry Program, a signature undergraduate research program that combines experiential learning with cross-disciplinary teamwork to address real-world issues. Creative Inquiry is unique to Clemson and aims to add valuable career skills to the learner's practical take-aways, helping them work in ways that are smart, useful, and marketable. Moving beyond traditional classroom settings, the Creative Inquiry approach to learning emphasizes engaged, hands-on activities among learners with different skills and backgrounds. Perhaps in this method we will find something we might apply in our lives, and improve our own problem-solving skills. This course is presented by Dr. Barbara Speziale, the Associate Director for Academic Affairs in the Watt Family Innovation Center.

Explore Croatia & Its Islands with Collette

Monday, February 16 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dubrovnik's ancient walls, Split's Roman heritage, crystal-clear waters of the Adriatic Sea. These are a short list of some of ancient Croatia's wonders. Join us for an exciting information session designed for travelers eager to discover the stunning coastlines, historic towns, and island gems of this area at the top of the Adriatic Sea. This journey, curated by Collette, features a unique small-ship experience that brings you up close to the Adriatic's most enchanting destinations. Learn all about the itinerary, accommodations, cultural highlights, and travel logistics directly from Collette's expert team. Whether you're a seasoned explorer or dreaming of your first overseas adventure, this session will inspire you to set sail! The main ingredients: your curiosity and sense of adventure! Arrive early to grab a good seat and connect with fellow travel enthusiasts.

Inside the Michelin Laurens Proving Grounds

Wednesday, February 18 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

It's not all about zoom-zoom (*but that is part of it*)! Safety, durability, handling - it's all on the line, and on the road, here at the Michelin test track. This 45-minute presentation by Michelin Engineering and Services Coordinator, Michelle Phillips, will provide a focused overview of the Michelin Laurens Proving Grounds (MLPG). Michelle will cover its location, history, and role in automotive and tire testing. Attendees will learn about the facility's advanced tracks and equipment used for evaluating tire performance, vehicle dynamics, and safety under various conditions. Key test types—such as wet/dry handling, high-speed runs, and durability assessments—will be discussed, along with MLPG's support for R&D, sustainability, and partnerships with OEMs. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Names Galore

Thursday, February 19 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The free lecture "Names Galore" hosted by longtime OLLI instructor, Skip Eisiminger, will focus on English names and naming practices. For example, if you've wondered what's the most common surname in the US, it's "Smith," someone who spent a lot of time hammering black iron into horseshoes. What are the best sports nicknames? My own favorite is Ted Williams' "The Splendid Splinter." What's the worst name a parent ever gave a child? (Sess Poole gets my vote.) What's the worst restaurant name? (Surely it was Montezuma's Revenge in Seneca.) What's the most deterministic name? (IMHO, it's Dr. Zoltan Ovary, a gynecologist.) Where do our surnames come from? Many came from the occupations and homes of our ancestors. I'll try to answer that in more detail with the help of the Oxford Dictionary of Names and other reference books which I'll bring for your perusal. Before attending, you might want to Google your own given and surname/s. I've done something like this lecture/discussion in my OLLI Salon classes—it's always been fun.

Overview of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

Thursday, February 19 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This 60-minute session, led by Joe "Dr. Drone" Burgett, provides an engaging overview of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of the FAA rules governing commercial drone operations and learn the 10 essential steps for conducting a professional UAS mission. The class will cover practical insights into planning, safety, and operational best practices used in real-world applications. Weather permitting, attendees will experience a live demonstration of a commercial drone in action, offering an up-close look at modern drone technology and its expanding role across industries such as construction, inspection, and public safety.

Revolutionary War History in Pickens County

Monday, February 23 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This short presentation by Chair of the Pickens County 250 Committee, Carolyn Nations, explores the role of Pickens County and the surrounding Upstate region during the American Revolutionary War. Though Pickens County itself was not formally established until after the war, the area—then part of the South Carolina frontier—was a key battleground for fierce conflicts between Patriots and Loyalists. The presentation highlights significant local events such as the Battle of Cowpens and the actions of frontier militia leaders like General Andrew Pickens, for whom the county is named. Attendees will gain insight into how the struggle for independence shaped the people, landscape, and legacy of the region that would become Pickens County.

Be Red Cross Ready: Disaster Preparedness

Wednesday, February 25 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Disasters disrupt our lives. But as communities and as individuals we can prepare. Some disasters, like floods and home fires, can occur anywhere. Other disasters, like wildfires and hurricanes, are more common in certain areas. Climate change is causing more frequent and extreme weather events. This increases our risk of death, injury, property loss and disruption. But we can take action to minimize risk and maximize recovery. Prepare now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your home. American Red Cross staff will help you “Be Red Cross Ready” in this free preparedness education curriculum designed to help communities understand, prepare for, and respond appropriately to disasters.

An Inside Look at ClemsonLIFE (Learning is for Everyone) a Post-Secondary Education for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Wednesday, March 4 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

You may have heard or read about Clemson’s landmark programs to bring those with intellectual disabilities into the mainstream of higher learning. This presentation provides an overview of ClemsonLIFE (Learning is for Everyone), a post-secondary education program for students with Intellectual Disabilities held at Clemson University. **Dr. Joseph Ryan** (Founder & Executive Director) will provide an inside look into the program’s 17-year history, focusing on what it takes for this program to work. Elements will include programmatic development, training components, objectives, and projected student outcomes. He will also share findings from research conducted in the areas of job training, time management, community mobility, and health/fitness that is used to improve the employment and independent living outcomes of its students.

Lifelong Income

Thursday, March 5 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

You may be tired of living at the mercy of the fluctuating stock and real estate markets. The financial instrument called Annuities provides a welcome alternative. Learn how a charitable gift annuity can provide you with a secure source of fixed income - for life. Discover how gifts made to the charitable organization of your choice can both provide you with the opportunity to make a difference while helping you plan for your future income stream. This open discussion session will provide real-time examples and explanations for you and your loved ones. You may find this a welcome addition to your financial safety net.

Radon, Radon Everywhere!

Wednesday, March 11 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Radon is naturally occurring radioactive material. More importantly, radon is attributed to being the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon can be found here in South Carolina because radon is a gas that is everywhere in the environment; thus, we cannot eliminate its risk to human health entirely, but we can reduce our exposure to it. In this lecture, we will explain where radon comes from, its prevalence in air and in water within South Carolina and the United States, and most importantly ways to reduce your risk from exposure to radon. Dr. Timothy DeVol is a Certified Health Physicist and the Toshiba Professor of (nuclear) Environmental Engineering and Science, as well as the Director of the Center for Nuclear Environmental Engineering Sciences and Radioactive Waste Management at Clemson University.

ANMED HEALTH SERIES

All events will begin at 10 a.m. in the Cheezem Education Center.
All events are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register by calling the OLLI office at 864-633-5242.



January 22

New Treatment Options for Common Lung Conditions

Hosted by Dr. Abhijit Raval

AnMed Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine

Asthma, COPD, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and other common lung conditions affect millions of older Americans every day. And treatment options are developing every day. Tried and true strategies for protecting health remain, though, even if new considerations await. Learn more from Dr. Abhijit Raval of AnMed Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine.



February 19

Cancer Screening Continues after Age 60

Hosted by Dr. Rahim Khomani

AnMed Oncology & Hematology

Family history, personal history and environmental factors can affect what screenings your doctor recommends for you after age 60. Learn more about how variables might affect you and what you should keep in mind to protect yourself as much as possible from Dr. Rahim Khomani of AnMed Oncology & Hematology.



March 19

Practical Steps to Help Older People Handle Digestive Issues

Hosted by Dr. Brian Berry

AnMed Gastroenterology

Digestive issues and gastroenterological diseases and conditions affect aging people differently. There are practical steps to take and effective approaches to employ. Learn more from Dr. Davis "Brian" Berry of AnMed Gastroenterology.



WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL OLLI GO?

Up-to-date details for all travel programs can be found on the OLLI website, and you can pick up a flyer for each trip at the Cheezem Education Center. Bookings are taken by the individual travel companies; contact the specific company for questions and arrangements.

TRAVEL 2026

Highlights of England, Scotland and Wales

9 Days – April 22 to 30, 2026 | By Premier World Discovery

Experience the best of the United Kingdom on this unforgettable multi-country journey through England, Scotland, and Wales.

Double Occupancy: \$4,599 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Single Occupancy: \$5,749 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Activity Level: Challenging



Alaska: Call of the Wild

7 Days – August 6 to 12, 2026 | By Premier World Discovery

Discover the wild beauty of America's Last Frontier on this unforgettable journey through Alaska.

Double Occupancy: \$6,025 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Single Occupancy: \$7,450 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Activity Level: Active



Alpine Swiss Villages and Rails

9 Days – September 14 to 22, 2026 | By Premier World Discovery

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Switzerland on this immersive journey through its iconic alpine villages and dramatic landscapes.

Double Occupancy: \$5,799 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Single Occupancy: \$6,749 per person, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville with \$100 booking discount

Activity Level: Challenging

Travel to Morocco with OLLI

10 Days – October 4 to 13, 2026 | By Discover Corps

Uncover the bustling medinas and colorful markets of Fès, Rabat, and Marrakech; meet with pioneering organizations empowering Morocco women and protecting the environment; dive headfirst into Moroccan culture with cooking lessons and food tours; engage with rural Amazigh communities nestled in the High Atlas Mountains; and learn a variety of traditional arts from locals, from tile making to calligraphy.

Double Occupancy: \$4,495 per person, does not include airfare

Single Occupancy: \$5,390 per person, does not include airfare

Activity Level: Challenging



TRAVEL 2027



Croatia & Its Islands

12 Days – April 21 to May 2, 2027 | By Collette

Tour highlights include Zagreb, Stone Gate, Šibenik, Cathedral of St. James, Krka National Park, 7-night Adriatic Cruise, Split, Trogir, Bol, Stari Grad, Hvar, Biševo Blue Cave, Vis, Korcula, Mljet National Park, Pelješac Peninsula, and Dubrovnik

Rates vary depending on ship cabin preference, includes roundtrip airfare from Greenville

Activity Level: Active

JANUARY

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Program description page numbers in parenthesis
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Code of Conduct

FOR MEMBERS AND INSTRUCTORS OF OLLI AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

OLLI at CU is a community of intellectually active mature adults. Membership entails mutual respect among members and instructors as they pursue knowledge and explore individual interests. Failure to treat ideas, viewpoints, the classroom environment and interests of other members of the community with respect and civility compromises the intellectual climate at OLLI, and cannot be tolerated. The OLLI administration and volunteer leadership are responsible for ensuring that the Code of Conduct is being followed in all OLLI-sponsored programs.

This OLLI at CU Code of Conduct is congruent with that for students at Clemson University (<https://www.clemson.edu/studentaffairs/find-support/ds/student-handbook.html>) in promoting behavior that enables enlightened discourse among individuals.

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I am new to OLLI this year. I have enjoyed everything that I have done so far! I love the variety of choices and how easy it has been to begin participating. Everything has been very organized and the people have been so nice!




Osher Online™

in collaboration with Northwestern University
School of Professional Studies

The following courses are offered to Clemson OLLI Members as part of the national Osher Online project, bringing stellar presenters to OLLIs across the country. Each course is offered **live via Zoom** – plan to participate from the comfort of home! Each session will include Members from several different OLLIs; each OLLI is limited to 13 seats per course. Each course is comprised of six 90-minute sessions and will offer generous question and answer periods. Before each course, participants will be contacted by the Osher Online staff at Northwestern University with further instructions.


New! Milestones in Medicine

6 Wednesdays, January 14 to February 18 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

This course highlights transformative milestones in medicine from the 18th century to today, beginning with Jenner's smallpox vaccine. We will explore key medical and public health advances, the innovators behind them, and the profound effects these breakthroughs have had on longevity and quality of life. The course offers a compelling look at how science and clinical care have worked together to reshape health outcomes over the past two centuries.

Gordon Josephson, MD, MPH, is a retired emergency physician and former Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Medical Practices in Springfield, Massachusetts. He holds a Master of Public Health from Harvard University and a medical degree from the State University of New York. Dr. Josephson remains active in the lifelong learning community and currently serves as president of the OLLI Board of Directors.


New! Heroes of the Holocaust: Lights in the Darkness

6 Wednesdays, January 14 to February 18 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

When we think of the Holocaust, we recall the horrors perpetrated by evildoers. Even in humanity's darkest hours, courageous individuals risked everything to save lives. This course sheds light on these little-known rescuers—ordinary people who defied laws, resisted hate, and acted with moral clarity and compassion. Their uplifting stories are powerful reminders of resilience, morality, and hope.

Howard Kerner, BA, MA (SUNY Albany), is a retired English professor who spent 47 years teaching and publishing over 100 scholarly articles, primarily on the Holocaust. In retirement, he researches and shares the powerful stories of little-known Holocaust rescuers. Through his talks at lifelong learning programs, he highlights acts of extraordinary bravery and altruism—offering timely reminders of human goodness.


New! Invisible Intelligence: The Unseen Algorithms Reshaping Your Daily Life

6 Thursdays, January 15 to February 19 | 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

Artificial Intelligence (AI) shapes our daily lives in subtle yet powerful ways. In this non-technical course, we will explore six case studies that reveal how AI systems work, the ethics behind machine decision-making, and the impact of these technologies on our world. We will gain a deeper understanding of AI's current influence—and the possibilities ahead.

Eliot Bethke is a PhD candidate in computational bioengineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He previously worked in research and development at several Midwest start-ups, focusing on product design and manufacturing. After running a summer internship program, he shifted his focus to education and now shares his expertise in hardware and software development with future engineers.


New! The American Revolution Beyond the British Empire

6 Saturdays, January 17 to February 21 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

This course reframes the American Revolution as a global event shaped by imperial rivalries and geopolitical forces. Each session focuses on a different group—Germans, French, Spaniards, South Asians, and others—revealing how their experiences intersected with the collapse of British rule in North America. By viewing the Revolution through a global lens, participants will uncover new perspectives on its causes, course, and consequences.

Richard Bell, PhD, is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of *Stolen*, a finalist for the George Washington and Harriet Tubman Prizes. A National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar and Carnegie Fellow, he has held fellowships at Yale and Cambridge. His latest book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, was published in 2025.


New! More than Parks: A History of American Conservation

6 Tuesdays, January 20 to February 24 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

Explore the evolution of American conservation from the 19th century to today. This course goes beyond national parks to examine how urban reformers, scientists, women activists, and Native communities shaped the movement. Through diverse stories and landscapes, we will gain a deeper understanding of how Americans have fought to preserve—and define—the natural world.

Fraser Livingston is an environmental historian with a PhD in American history from Mississippi State University. His research focuses on the history of science, technology, and agriculture. He received the 2023 Gilbert C. Fite Award for Best Dissertation on Agricultural History and currently works on a book about conservationist George Bird Grinnell. He also serves as book review editor for *Environmental History*.


New! Using Google Workspace Tools with Confidence

6 Wednesdays, January 21 to February 25 | 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

This beginner-friendly course introduces Google Workspace tools like Drive, Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Sheets, and Slides. We will learn core features, basic navigation, and practical applications for personal and professional use. With guided instruction and real-world examples, the course builds confidence and foundational skills to boost productivity and collaboration.

Chelsea King is a learning and development specialist with more than a decade of experience in teaching and training. She began her career as a high school English teacher and now focuses on adult learners, especially in professional development and technology integration. Her approach emphasizes practical, collaborative learning experiences that reflect her commitment to accessible, tech-forward instruction in both educational and corporate settings.


New! John James Audubon and the Birds of America

6 Thursdays, January 22 to February 26 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

In the 1820s, John James Audubon set out to document every bird species in the US, resulting in *The Birds of America*, a landmark collection of 435 hand-painted prints. This course explores Audubon's life, artistic methods, and legacy, highlighting how his work bridges art and science. We will examine selected prints and consider his lasting impact on American natural history.

Eric Simon, PhD, is a professor of Biology at New England College and holds a PhD in biochemistry from Harvard University. An avid traveler and award-winning nature photographer, he leads educational trips to destinations such as Belize, the Galapagos, Tanzania, Cuba, the Amazon River, and Patagonia. Simon is also the author of a best-selling series of college biology textbooks—used in over 40 countries—with more than 2 million copies in print.

New! Brain and Behavior in the Era of Digital Technology

6 Mondays, January 26 to March 2 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

Explore how digital technologies and artificial intelligence affect the brain, behavior, and mental health. This course examines the impact of modern devices on attention, memory, emotions, and decision-making, while addressing ethical concerns like privacy and tech-based addictions. We will learn how neuroscience and psychology offer tools to support well-being in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Elena Labkovsky, PhD, is a neuroscientist and clinical neuropsychologist with over 30 years of experience in cognitive psychology and psychophysiology. She specializes in neurobehavioral modulation, integrating psychological, neuropsychological, and physiological approaches to support emotional and cognitive well-being. Her work focuses on how brain function shapes behavior and on developing innovative, research-based treatments for mental health challenges.


New! History of Sicily

6 Mondays, January 26 to March 2 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

Sicily has been a mythic crossroads of heroes, conquerors, and culture for over 3,000 years. From Odysseus and the Arabo-Norman Golden Age to the Mafia and modern mythmakers like Garibaldi and Coppola, Sicily's story is rich, complex, and central to Western history. This course explores its pivotal role in shaping civilization—and why Goethe famously said, “To have seen Italy without having seen Sicily is not to have seen Italy at all.”

Douglas Kenning, PhD (University of Edinburgh), is a writer, lecturer, and former professor of literature and history. He has taught in the U.S., Tunisia, Japan, and Italy. Now based in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sicily, he offers dynamic lectures on Mediterranean civilizations and leads small-group tours exploring history, myth, and culture.


New! Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: A Comparative Exploration

6 Thursdays, January 29 to March 5 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 

Explore the rituals, beliefs, and writings of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam through a comparative lens. This course examines where these Abrahamic religions overlap and diverge, offering insights into their shared monotheistic roots and unique traditions. We will read key texts from each faith and gain a deeper understanding of how these religions shape meaning, practice, and identity.

Jeremy Fackenthal, PhD, is an independent filmmaker and nonprofit director. He led the Common Good International Film Festival from 2019 to 2023 and holds a PhD in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from Claremont Graduate University. His work uses film to explore philosophical questions, including a short documentary on spoken word poetry and an upcoming feature-length film. He sees film as art, expression, and entertainment.


Osher Integrative Health: Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System

6 Fridays, January 30 to March 6 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Tuition: \$59 


This course, presented in partnership with the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health, features expert speakers from their upcoming national conference, *Navigating Chronic Illness in a Complex Healthcare System*. Through engaging presentations and discussions, participants will explore how integrative health approaches can address the challenges of living with chronic conditions and help individuals make informed choices within today's increasingly complex healthcare environment. Topics will focus on whole-person care, patient empowerment, and practical strategies for managing long-term health concerns.

The Osher Collaborative for Integrative Health is a national network of academic health centers dedicated to advancing whole-person care. Through clinical innovation, research, and education, the Collaborative promotes evidence-based approaches that combine conventional and complementary therapies to support physical, emotional, and social well-being.


DAY and HALF-DAY TRIPS

New! Spartanburg Planetarium and Maker Lab Tour 
Monday, January 26 | 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. | Departs from the Cheezem
Education Center | Tuition: \$39


Last year this excursion wasn't possible - because the Planetarium didn't exist! We can now discover the wonders of science and creativity at the new Spartanburg Planetarium Learning Center! Enjoy a guided tour and an immersive show inside the 50-foot domed planetarium theatre, designed to inspire learners of all ages. Afterward, we'll explore the Kitty Black Perkins Maker Lab, where with support from friendly staff, visitors of all skill levels can experiment, design, and innovate in this hands-on space. Be ready to be impressed when you join us for a day of discovery, learning, and inspiration!

Leading the Upstate: Tour of Greenville-Spartanburg Airport 
Wednesday, January 28 | 10:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. | Departs from the Cheezem
Education Center | Tuition: \$39


The Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport opened in 1962. It has only one - one! - runway, yet it is the third busiest airport in South Carolina and covers 3,500 acres. In addition to serving the thousands of customers that fly in and out every day, the airport has a major FedEx package facility, and BMW has its own cargo service which supports the easy and efficient transfer of arriving parts to and from its major manufacturing facility in Spartanburg. This excursion will include learning about how GSP came to be and a guided tour of its facilities.

New! Tour of the Watt Family Innovation Center 
Tuesday, February 24 | 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Departs from the Cheezem
Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Tour Clemson University's most technology-enhanced academic building, featuring state-of-the-art information technology and special facilities. The Watt Family Innovation Center was established in 2016 to create an environment where collaboration among students, faculty, and leaders from industry and government agencies generate ideas and solve complex problems. This building functions as a hub for interactive experiential learning, featuring student innovation spaces and classrooms that host many types of learning modalities.

Itron Factory Tour – West Union, South Carolina 
Wednesday, March 4 | 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Departs from the Cheezem
Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Join us for an inside look at Itron's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in West Union, where innovation meets precision. This tour offers a behind-the-scenes view of how Itron designs and produces advanced metering technology that helps utilities around the world manage energy and water more efficiently. Visitors will see Itron's commitment to quality, sustainability, and safety in action, while learning about the cutting-edge processes and skilled workforce that drive their operations.

New! Year-Round Vegetables: A Visit to Hurricane Creek Hydroponic Farm 
Tuesday, March 17 | 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. | Departs from the Cheezem
Education Center | Tuition: \$29

It's been 15 years now, Hurricane Creek Farms continues to grow and sell quality hydroponic produce, pasture raised Angus beef, and stone-ground grits and cornmeal. Their success begins with their careful preservation and cultivation of

Activity Levels for Active Programs

Activity level rankings are provided for courses as appropriate; please consider your needs and abilities when registering for a specific program.



MODERATELY ACTIVE
These programs consist of some physical activity, such as equal parts walking and riding, sitting, or stopping.



ACTIVE
These programs require a fair amount of physical fitness and may require you to be active for up to three hours at a time. Many programs in the active category may require up to a mile of walking before taking a break and will likely cause you to break a bit of a sweat.



MODERATELY CHALLENGING
These programs require a good deal of physical fitness and more physical activity. These programs may require, for example, a lot of walking on uneven terrain and/or up and down hills for long periods of time.



CHALLENGING
These programs are for those who are comfortable with more strenuous activities, such as hiking for several miles on uneven terrain.

several heritage corns, from which all their produce comes. Hydroponic gardening itself is fascinating, a *soil-free* method of growing plants in a synthetic soil whose only purpose is to protect the growing plant and convey to it an exact mix of nutrients. Hurricane Creek grows several types of lettuce year-round and tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers during the winter months. Their products are available at their farm, farmer's markets, and at restaurants and grocers in the Upstate. The tour will show the complete process for grinding corn for grits and cornmeal and provide an explanation of the greenhouse hydroponic produce systems.

Tour Mushroom Mountain

Wednesday, March 25 | 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Mushroom Mountain, Easley | Tuition: \$29

Right around the corner in Liberty, SC you'll find one of the world's premier mushroom farms. Mushroom Mountain farm and research center cultivates edible and medicinal fungi and finds solutions to environmental and medical problems. Your visit will include an introduction to fungal ecology and life cycles, laboratory tour and research overviews, and the fruiting room where the mushroom's fascinating process of reproduction happens. Many aspects of mushrooms, including medicinal properties, cooking, and mycoremediation - a process that uses fungi to clean up environmental pollutants - and the creation of soil will be discussed along the way.

New! Unmasking the Mysteries of Cremation

Thursday, March 26 | 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. | Departs from the Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

Unmasking the Mysteries of Cremation is an experiential presentation at the Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes' Northwest Chapel & Cremation Center in Greenville. Led by the Director of Grief Resources/Education and licensed funeral directors, participants will learn how foundational grief theories inform services that range from simple to elaborate. Participants have an opportunity to examine legal requirements and best practices to understand what happens behind the scenes. A guided tour of the on-site cremation center is included, and all questions are welcomed.

Dan Kirkpatrick has served as Director of Grief Resources and Education at Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes since 2023. Previously, he served as hospital chaplain for 20 years and a hospice chaplain for 7 years. Dan is Certified in Thanatology (Death, Dying and Bereavement) by the Association of Death Educators and Counselors. **Wendy Smith Thames** joined Thomas McAfee Funeral Homes as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in July of 2019. Mrs. Thames received her A.A.S. in Mortuary Science from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and has served families for over 25 years in Texas, Louisiana, Connecticut, and South Carolina.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Hikes in the Hills

4 Mondays, February 16; March 2, 16, and 30 (Rain Dates: March 9 and April 3) | 8:30 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. | Itinerary provided one week before start date | Tuition: \$79

Enjoy interpreter-led hiking in the Piedmont of Upstate South Carolina and the Southern Appalachians of North Carolina and Georgia as we explore the rich biodiversity and geology of the region. We'll see waterfalls and soak in the views from scenic vistas as we explore our changing landscapes. Participants should be able to walk four to five miles on uneven terrain.

- **Feb 16** – Carrick Creek Loop (Moderate, 1.8 mi) and the Pinnacle Lake Loop (Easy, 2 mi) at Table Rock State Park. Enjoy hiking along Carrick Creek with numerous views of cascading waterfalls in-route to Carrick Creek Falls. Then soak in winter beauty of the forest and spectacular views of Table Rock as we hike around the lakeshore steeped in history of a trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.
- **March 2** – Nine Times Preserve Trail and Appalachian Lumber Trail. Special features: Trout Lilies and views of Big Rock Mountain in winter. (Moderate, 3 mi loop)
- **March 16** - Hike to Station Cove Falls. Features: Sweet Betsy Trillium which carpets the forest floor along with other early wildflowers, and the 60-ft stepped, Station Cove Falls. (Moderate, 3 mi)
- **March 30** - Foothills Trail: Sassafras Mountain to Chimneytop Gap (Easy, 2.2 mi) Enjoy views from the tower on Sassafras Mountain. Then hike along the Foothills Trail to Chimneytop Gap passing by the iconic "balancing rock" boulder.

Jean Askew is an avid hiker and has been hiking with OLLI and other groups since moving back to the Upstate in 2008. She has an educational background in botany and forestry and completed the Upstate Master Naturalist program in 2016. **Delsey Brown** moved back to the Upstate in 2016 and started exploring the area she left in 1983. She has been hiking with OLLI since 2017 and enjoys hiking with a group where everyone learns from each other.

The Fascinating History of Oconee Bells

Thursday, March 5 (Rain date Monday, March 9) | 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Devils Fork State Park, Salem |

Tuition: \$79

The Jocassee Gorges eco-region has drawn the attention of botanists from around the world since the 1700's. Today the region is known for harboring an abundance of species, including rare plants such as the endemic wildflower *Shortia galacifolia*. Locally known as Oconee Bells, this diminutive wildflower was first discovered in Jocassee Valley. Join this popular 3-hour pontoon excursion on Lake Jocassee to explore the native habitat of Oconee Bells and discover the secrets of why so many diverse and rare plants are found within the Jocassee Gorges.

Kay Wade co-owns Jocassee Lake Tours with her husband Brooks. Together they founded Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education to offer students access to a wide range of nature studies in the "perfect outdoor classroom"- Lake Jocassee and the Jocassee Gorges. Kay is a professional writer and garden designer who is passionate about clean air, water and food.

Loons and Winter Bird Life

Thursday, March 19 | 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Devils Fork State Park, Salem | Tuition: \$79

Lake Jocassee is both winter home and spring migration stop over for a large, stable population of common loons, as well as a host of other winter waterbirds, including Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls, Bald eagles and Horned grebes. The relatively small size of Jocassee makes the lake a perfect laboratory for loon research. Join the research's co-investigator, Brooks Wade, and Jocassee Wild Outdoor Education for a one-hour classroom presentation of cutting-edge research on winter loon behavior and spring migration, followed by a 3-hour pontoon outing and discussion of these ongoing research projects. While observing these enigmatic birds in their freshwater winter environment, we'll also visit some of the beautiful waterfalls and wild rivers for which Lake Jocassee is so famous.

Brooks Wade is the host, guide and co-investigator for the ongoing research into the common loon on Lake Jocassee. Brooks' passion for loons brought the attention of the scientific community to Lake Jocassee.

COURSES

Gardening Like a Painter

3 Mondays and 3 Wednesdays, January 26, 28, February 2, 4, 9, and 11 | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

This course will feature the Pendleton gardens developed by Tom Pellett over a six-year period. In this four-session class, Tom will present elements of design and color important to garden design. Using plants suitable for the Upstate, he will show how these can be arranged for the best visual effect. In the first class, the presentation will focus on the development of two sunny gardens over three years. The second class will focus on the development of two shade gardens over three years. The third class will feature a presentation of seasonal changes of seven gardens over winter and spring of 2025. The presentation in the fourth class will show seasonal changes of those gardens over summer and fall. Each presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Class members will have the opportunity to ask questions about their own gardens.

As a professional garden designer over a period of 45 years, **Tom Pellett** designed gardens in Austin, Greensboro, the Memphis area, north Mississippi and east Arkansas. He has been filling sketchbooks for 50+ years and painting with watercolors for about 25 years. Tom's gardens have been featured in several books and periodicals. His academic degree is a BFA from the California College of Art.

Beginning Bridge

6 Mondays, January 26 to March 2 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

Come join David Potts and Janet Hutcheson for a few hours of learning and collegiality. Bridge can be a relaxing way to spend an evening or a challenging way to stretch your thinking. We will learn the modern bidding system called standard American which differs some from the older Goren system. We will use the book *Bridge for Everyone* by D.W. Crisfield as our guide. Using the book will also make it possible to miss some classes and still participate. We will start by understanding how to play and move on to concepts of bidding. There are only 16 words used in the bidding auction. What could be easier? At the conclusion you will be ready to join the Bridge Special Interest Group at OLLI or play with your friends over a few drinks. It is suggested that participants purchase or download *Bridge for Everyone* by D.W. Crisfield.

David Potts is a lifelong bridge player, having first played in college, and then not playing until retirement five years ago. David is the past Chair of the Board of Advisors for OLLI Clemson and dedicated to the goals of OLLI for education and social interaction.

New! Line Dancing: Where Fitness Meets Friendship

6 Mondays, January 26 to March 2 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. | Central-Clemson Rec Center, Central | Tuition: \$69

Line dancing is the perfect blend of movement, music, and fun, no partner required! In this upbeat class, you'll learn easy-to-follow dances set to lively music, all in a welcoming and lighthearted atmosphere. Whether you're brand new or already know a few steps, you'll leave each class smiling, energized, and ready to dance through life.

With former Charleston Boot Boogie Babe **Vicki Enos** as your instructor, you'll pick up a variety of social dances you can use anywhere...weddings, backyard BBQs, your favorite local hangout, or even right in your living room. More than just dance steps, this class is about laughter, music, and new friendships. Come for the exercise, stay for the connections, and leave with an extra pep in your step!

Intermediate Tai Chi

10 Tuesdays, January 27 to March 31 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$119

Tai Chi (Taijiquan) is practiced widely around the world and is renowned as a system of training that enhances health, balance and well-being through a series of postures that are practiced slowly, with attention to alignment and relaxed movement. While many of the concepts go back to ancient times, the first complete forms are credited to the Chen Village in China (from the 1700s). The Tai Chi form known as "Tai Chi 24" will be taught form by form. The instructor will explain basic yet very important principles e.g., rooting, sung (relaxation), and six directions.

Gary Carbone spent 35 years studying Tai Chi (Taijiquan), Xingyiquan, Bagua Zhang, Yiquan, Shaolin Kung Fu and Isshin Ryu Karate and is a seventh-generation lineage holder from Master Chen Jun Hao of Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China. He loves sharing these arts with others.

Tai Chi

10 Tuesdays, January 27 to March 31 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$119

Tai Chi (Taijiquan) is practiced widely around the world and is renowned as a system of training that enhances health, balance and well-being through a series of postures that are practiced slowly, with attention to alignment and relaxed movement. While many of the concepts go back to ancient times, the first complete forms are credited to the Chen Village in China (from the 1700s). The Tai Chi form known as "Tai Chi 24" will be taught form by form. The instructor will explain basic yet very important principles e.g., rooting, sung (relaxation), and six directions.

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New! Understanding How Dis-Information Affects Our Thinking and Speaking

Tuesday, January 27 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Dis-Information affects how we talk and think about things, as well as how we see things and sometimes how we act. Critics have described us as a post-truth society. But that's not all of us. Let's protect ourselves from being

misled. Anyone can learn the skill of recognizing dis-information. We'll use examples of climate dis-information to learn how to spot un-truths. We'll begin to understand how to immunize ourselves against distortion of the truth and keep our thinking clear. After our discussion-oriented class, you'll be better able to spot the characteristics of dis-information and think and speak more clearly about subjects important to you.

Eunice Lehmacher, LISW-CP, has worked as a medical social worker and psychotherapist in Oconee County for more than 20 years. She specializes in geriatrics, dementia, depression and anxiety and has taught many classes on various mental health topics. Eunice enjoys leading interactive classes and support groups on a variety of mental health topics which help adults to make choices that can lead to a healthier life.

New! A Valentine's Day Brunch Menu

Wednesday, January 28 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$49

In our busy world, taking advantage of every opportunity for fun and enjoyable company shouldn't be missed. Why not plan and make a beautiful and delicious Valentine's Day Brunch to share with your family or friends? In this course you will learn how to make and present heart shaped chocolate waffles, stuffed strawberries, and savory frittatas, and pair it with a lovely bellini cocktail. Our mouths are already watering in anticipation!

JeanMarie Gunderson has been cooking and baking since she was a child, and it has become a lifelong passion. She believes gathering around the table with family and friends while enjoying delicious food is a great way to keep us all connected in this very busy world.

New! Joys of Language

10 Wednesdays, January 28 to April 1 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

If you're the sort of person who would be interested to know that there are three acceptable plurals of octopus (octopi, octopuses, and octopodes), the commercial use of inflammable is illegal (flammable is the word to use), and the Oxford English Dictionary has 645 definitions for run (it holds the record), the all-new Joys of Language is a course for you. Join us in January for an enjoyable romp through the English language and some occasional side trips to some foreign tongues. Never forget Ludwig Wittgenstein's observation, "All I know is what I have words for." No tests to take, no papers to write, and no grades to fear—everyone gets an A.

Skip Eisiminger is retired from the Clemson University English Department, where he taught History of the Language, Word Study, American Literature, interdisciplinary humanities, and creative writing for 42 years. He continues to publish in the *South Carolina Review*, *Weekly Hubris*, and *KYSO Flash*. He is the author of *Anecdotes and Antidotes* (Serving House Press, 2019).

New! The Changing Federal Role in U. S. Research

Wednesday, January 28 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

The Research and Development (R&D) enterprise of the U.S., involving the Federal Government, universities, and corporate sector, was conceived at the end of World War II and implemented in the intervening decades. We examine advances it has produced in such areas as high performance computing, weather forecasting, and disease treatment and prevention. Proposed 2026 Federal funding cuts for research will negatively impact future innovations. The public policy and moral implications of these changes will be examined.

Jack Hansen is an active member of the OLLI program at Furman University. Prior to retiring, he held leadership roles in research organizations in academia (e.g., Penn State ARL, Institute for Human and Machine Cognition) and in the federal government (e.g., Office of Naval Research, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center). He has also served as a consultant to NASA Ames on a range of topics (including Artificial Intelligence). **Aaron Simmons** is a Professor of Philosophy at Furman University and author of numerous books and journal publications on Philosophy. Much of his recent efforts have been devoted to making philosophical concepts applicable to and accessible to society more broadly. A very good example is his recently published book *Camping with Kierkegaard*.

Qigong

5 Wednesdays, January 28 to February 25 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$79

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) incorporates five elements—Metal, Water, Wood, Fire, and Earth— into its approach to health and wellness. When combined with specific movement and breathing techniques, this practice becomes Qigong. The movements in Qigong target various body systems and promote overall health, acting as a holistic tonic for the body. The practice ranges from stationary movements to more dynamic stepping patterns, allowing you to engage in slow, meditative practices for balance or more vigorous movements for an anaerobic workout.

Gary Carbone spent 35 years studying Tai Chi (Taijiquan), Xingyiquan, Bagua Zhang, Yiquan, Shaolin Kung Fu and Isshin Ryu Karate and is a seventh-generation lineage holder from Master Chen Jun Hao of Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China. He loves sharing these arts with others.

Do You Have Your Ducks in a Row?

6 Thursdays, January 29; February 12, 26; March 12, 26; and April 2 | 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

One of the hardest tasks in living a life is deciding how to handle everything when we can't and won't. That includes our final wishes before, during, and after our final days. In six sessions this course helps you identify and tackle importing things you want to be handled properly. These include personal property, health decisions, end of life finances, and final wishes. Each two-hour meeting includes an educational component and class discussion during which participants share ideas and relevant concerns. You'll have a workbook which will be an invaluable resource for your loved ones. There will be important homework, so we will meet every other week. **Workbook and materials cost \$40 per person or \$50 per couple, cash or check payable on the first day of class.** Expect open and respectful discussions and a few laughs as we tackle this daunting task together!

As a hospice social worker, **Kam Flynn** worked with people before and after the death of a loved one. Grieving individuals were forced to spend hours on complicated administrative tasks in order to unwind the lives of their family members. She developed the DucksRow program to guide people as they get their "ducks in a row."

New! Simple and Effective Landscaping Techniques to Improve Curb Appeal

Thursday, January 29 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

In this program, we will review the basic concepts of landscape design and demonstrate how to use them to make practical and meaningful changes to improve the curb appeal of almost any home. We will discuss how to vary height and textures to create an attractive layered landscape, use a tree or favorite item to create a focal point, make a statement with your front door and entrance, add inviting pathways, use planters for added color and emphasis, use borders and edging to create appealing flow in your landscape. We will show you how rhythm, unity and harmony, so often associated with music, can make your landscape sing!

After more than 30 years as a professional grower and surveying hundreds of private and public gardens, **Jeanne Guidi** formed G&G Designs, LLC to put her considerable plant knowledge to use helping homeowners with attractive design solutions and wise plant selections.

Beginning Stained Glass

7 Weekdays, January 29, 30; February 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Kathy Carroll's Studio, Seneca | Tuition: \$79

The earliest forms of glassmaking occurred nearly 3,000 years ago, and colored window glass dates back 1,350 years; yet our fascination with the art form continues. In this class, discover the secrets of creating your own masterpiece from glass, learn stained glass terminology and study the history of the art. Through hands-on practice, participants will become familiar with modern tools, equipment and techniques while each student fabricates a unique 9x18 inch-stained glass panel. This class requires standing and a certain amount of arm strength.

Favorite OLLI instructor **Kathy Carroll** has crafted with glass for more than 40 years. She has taken workshops and attended conferences in various locations throughout the United States and has worked with cold glass, slumped

and fused glass and blown glass. She has taught stained glass classes, as well as created commissioned work. Kathy's team of helpers, Sylvia Titus, Nancy Bock and Jack McKenna have been doing stained glass for over 10 years. Sylvia has extensive color and design experience. Nancy retired from the Oconee schools and is a great teacher. Jack has extensive experience with soldering and framing in glass.

Get Turned on to Woodturning

Thursday, January 29 | 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. | John Sheet's Studio/Shop, Pendleton | Tuition: \$19

If you are thinking about woodturning as a possible hobby, or are just interested in seeing how it's done, come join us! This introductory class is made for those that are, or might be, interested in becoming familiar with the processes of woodturning. John will demonstrate both spindle and faceplate turning at his shop in Pendleton. Although this is primarily a demonstration class there will likely be an opportunity for a small bit of hands-on for each student, if they wish. In addition to basic turning technique, John will also discuss safety, equipment, sanding, embellishment with color and texture, and finishing.

John Sheets has been a wood guy for 50 years, initially making 18th century and Shaker style furniture reproductions, but shifting his focus to woodturning for the last 20 years. He is a 4-year past president of the Mountaineer Woodturners in West Virginia and has taught many Road Scholar classes at the Cedar Lakes Craft Center in Ripley, West Virginia. He has taught at Woodcraft stores and given individual lessons. Prior to relocating, he was a juried artist at Tamarack in Beckley, West Virginia, including acceptance in their fine art gallery. He has also been represented in several other galleries.

Philosophy Plus: The Roman Empire: From Augustus to the Fall of Rome



10 Thursdays, January 29 to April 2 | 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

This discussion group, now in its 20th year, is Clemson OLLI's longest running offering. Participants spend the first portion of class watching a video lecture, which leads to the lively discussion that follows. Videos are available to registrants anytime; each discussion is freestanding. Owing to the wide interests within the group, digressions are frequent. Winter 2026 topic is *The Roman Empire: From Augustus to the Fall of Rome*.

Video lectures feature **Gregory S. Aldrete**, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay. A discussion group member leads the conversation.

New! The Road to Independence: Revolutionary War Campaigns in the North

3 Mondays, February 2 to 16 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Zoom Virtual Classroom | Tuition: \$39

The American Revolution began in Massachusetts in 1775 and quickly expanded into Canada, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania during the critical early years of the war (1775–1778). This course offers an in-depth look at how George Washington built and led the Continental Army, transforming a group of colonial militias into a fighting force capable of challenging the British Empire. We'll explore key campaigns and turning points—including the strategic captures of Fort Ticonderoga and the pivotal victory at Saratoga—that helped shape the path to American independence. Join us as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and uncover the people, places, and events that forged a new nation.

Russ Hutchins is a retired public-school administrator. He holds an Ed.S. in school administration from Pittsburg State University, Kansas, and teaches for OLLI at The University of Kansas, OLLI at The University of West Virginia, and CALL at the College of Charleston.

New! Using AI Tools to Find Reliable Information

Monday, February 2 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

AI will soon be in many parts of our lives. We in Clemson OLLI have an extraordinary opportunity to learn for ourselves how to take advantage of this strange new tool. Have you ever wondered which AI tools might be best to find reliable information? Do you want to know more about how to verify the sources that you find using AI? During this session participants will explore freely available AI tools with the AI Literacy Coordinator from Clemson Libraries, Dr. Anne Grant. This is a golden opportunity to learn from one of our own leaders in AI literacy.

Dr. Anne Grant has been a librarian at Clemson for over 20 years and has been serving as the AI Literacy Coordinator since 2024. She is a humanities research librarian and is the creator of multiple online resources to support a deeper understanding of ways that AI can enhance the search for reliable information.

New! Wearing the Legacy: The Story of the Clemson Ring

Tuesday, February 3 | 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

The Clemson Ring and the Ring Ceremony are one of Clemson University's most cherished traditions. Discover the rich history behind the Clemson Ring and learn why this symbol carries such deep meaning for alumni across generations. You'll hear about the origins of the tradition, the powerful symbolism embedded in the ring's design, and why Clemson graduates wear it with lifelong pride. Following the presentation, enjoy an exclusive guided tour of Clemson's new Nieri Alumni and Visitors Center. Explore interactive exhibits, welcoming event spaces, and inspiring displays that showcase the Clemson story.

Dr. Otis W. Pickett is a historian of religion in the United States South focusing on domestic missions to enslaved African American and Native American communities in South Carolina. His research focuses on nineteenth century missionaries and the intersection of race, religion and ecclesiastical polity in southern Presbyterianism. Dr. Pickett is the third Clemson University Historian, serves in the Libraries as University Historian, is Chair of the Department of Historic Properties and is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning at Clemson University.

Estate Planning

2 Tuesdays, February 3 and 10 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Your estate - what you will leave behind - is worth thinking about, and sooner rather than later. You will benefit from the experience of William Hubbard and Ashton Gottschall, two lawyers whose practice is devoted to estate planning, as they help you start, or improve, your estate plans. With their guidance, you will review the most important elements of estate planning in South Carolina, including vital subjects such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, probate, estate taxation, and healthcare planning. They will clearly explain documents and techniques that every family should pursue, as well as some that should be avoided. A question-and-answer session will follow each discussion. You will want to take notes!

William K. Hubbard attended Clemson University for his undergraduate studies in agricultural engineering and pursued law school at the University of South Carolina. His law practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust related work. Ashton R. Gottschall attended the University of South Carolina Upstate for his undergraduate degree in political science and the University of South Carolina School of Law for his law degree. He focuses on estate planning and serving local business owners and entrepreneurs as general counsel.

Painting Watercolor on Canvas

Tuesday, February 3 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Stretch the boundaries of watercolor painting from paper to canvas. Join Vickie Bagwell for this workshop that utilizes pre-prepped canvas and watercolor paint tubes. This course is for anyone with any painting experience no matter the medium. The goal is to paint a scene or wildlife on a pre-prepped canvas for watercolor not a regular canvas. However, if you have another image you would like to paint, bring it! With three hours to paint, everyone is expected to leave with a finished painting. A supply list will be provided upon registration.

Vickie Bagwell is a retired RN that has had an interest and dabbled in art since the age of 12. Having taken classes in acrylic, oil, and watercolor painting, she now teaches watercolor, acrylic, and painting on glass classes throughout the community including The Arts Center of Clemson.

New! Transylvania - Beyond Dracula

4 Tuesdays, February 3 to 24 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$49

Discover the fascinating history of one of Europe's most mysterious places, from its earliest settlement all the way up to the modern day. Experience tales of medieval castles, courageous knights, bloody battles and heroic tales, all taking place in the valleys and shadows of the Carpathian Mountains. The course is structured into four sessions in

chronological order, and will introduce you to the unique architecture, social structure, arts and crafts, and special attributes of this semi-secluded culture, separate from anything else found in Europe.

As a first-generation immigrant from a Transylvanian family and a student of history, **Hans Falk** is able to provide a unique insight to the magical land of Transylvania, from its earliest history through to the present day. His family traces its ancestry to before the 18th century and were directly impacted by the Hungarian Revolution, the Romanian annexation of Transylvania, and the Communist takeover following WWII, as well as the modern revolution which instituted democratic reforms. Hans has presented this course to cultural groups and has multiple manuscripts detailing life in Transylvania.

Introducing Homer's *Iliad*

2 Wednesdays, February 4 and 11 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

This is an instance of poetry telling a wonderful story. Helen of Troy and the Trojan horse—the plot is well known and loved for its adventure, drama, and seemingly unavoidable tragedy. The origin of the story is the *Iliad*, a famous Greek poem attributed to Homer, widely considered to be one of the founding authors of Western Literature. He wove myth, fact, and high drama worthy of any age. Who were the heroes, and who the villains? Who were the strange mythological characters behind the action? Did the city of Troy really exist? This class will answer those questions and more.

Marina Viotto Joyce is a native of Italy who moved to the United States 51 years ago. She returns to Italy to visit her family and friends once a year, giving her an opportunity to keep an eye on the constantly changing society.

New! Cuban History: From Colony to Communist State

8 Wednesdays, February 4 to March 25 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$69

Cuba's history is a story of colonization and revolution, highlighted by its remarkable cultural resilience over centuries of social and political upheaval. Their story is unique, yet we find elements of our own history in their striving. Originally inhabited by indigenous Taíno people, since 1492 and its discovery by Christopher Columbus, Cuba has seen itself a Spanish colony, with its economy built on sugar plantations and African slave labor, an independent country following the Spanish-American War in 1902, and under a dictatorship since 1959 under Fidel Castro that established a communist state. Today the country continues to grapple with economic challenges. Lucy will help us appreciate how it has preserved its rich and unique culture amid these profound changes.

Lucy Hoffman is the third of five children. She graduated from Clemson University with a master's degree in history and taught for eight years at Greenville Tech. She has written six books. Two years ago, she and her husband traveled to Cuba, acquiring a deeper appreciation for its fascinating and dynamic history.

New! Dictatorship: Marxism, Fascism, and George Orwell

5 Wednesdays, February 4 to March 4 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$59

This is a lecture series concentrating on the characteristics of the Marxist and Fascist ideologies and how Eric Blair (George Orwell) portrayed the rise of dictatorship in the first half of the 20th century. Lectures, student participation, and discussions will focus on Lenin, Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler, culminating with the role of the latter two figures, concerning the causes of WWII in Europe. Throughout, mention will be made of Orwell's works (notably *Homage to Catalonia*, *Animal Farm*, and 1984) and their relevance in today's world.

Stephen Corkett attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia first in 1973 as a British exchange student and in 1978-79 as a masters degree student in History. He taught Modern European History and United States History for nearly 40 years in British and American schools, including AP European History and military history in Oregon before retiring to South Carolina in 2020.

New! Getting Started with Watercolor

4 Wednesdays, February 4 to 25 | 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$109

Many of us learned painting with watercolors in grade school. As adults those good memories remained. Here is a chance to come back to that enjoyable art by re-learning - or learning for the first time - the fundamentals of

watercolor painting. From materials to basic techniques, Liz will guide you and help you along your unique artistic journey. No experience is needed. All you need is a desire to express your vision.

Liz Purcell has been painting in watercolor for over 30 years. Her work has won awards in several juried shows across the Upstate.

New! Exploring *The Taste of Trouble* A Culinary Crime Novel

Thursday, February 5 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Whether you are a reader, a writer, or recipe collector, there is something here to whet your appetite! This course aims to inspire and inform as it explores the link between culinary arts and storytelling. We will explore the story line and key themes of *The Taste of Trouble* and discover how recipes are integrated into the narrative. Participants will gain a better understanding of the writing and publishing process, the fascination of creating a culinary crime novel, and a “novel” approach with practical tips to launch their own literary projects. Bon appetit!

Christian Thormose was born in Denmark and graduated from culinary school in Copenhagen. He has worked as a cook, sous-chef, and executive chef in Denmark, France and the United States. He was selected as one of the Executive Chefs for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and again in 2012 in London. Christian is an advocate for sustainable practices and community well-being. He penned the book *Tastes of Clemson Blue Cheese*, in 2019, celebrating local flavors and culinary artistry.

New! The American Revolution and the Fate of the World



Thursday, February 5 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Classroom | Tuition: \$19

When we think of the American Revolution, we often picture a parochial drama: thirteen colonies squaring off against the British Crown in a spirited bid for independence. But this version of the story is only half the truth—and perhaps not even the most interesting half. In this riveting program, historian and author Richard Bell invites audiences to rediscover the Revolution as a world war that unleashed chaos, opportunity, and transformation across six continents. From the sugar fields of the Caribbean to the court of the King of Mysore, from refugee camps on the Canadian frontier to political uprisings in Sierra Leone and Peru, the war that gave birth to the United States was never simply America’s own. It was a seismic global event that redrew maps, toppled hierarchies, catalyzed migration, and accelerated new movements for liberty—and for empire.

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home* which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. His new book, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*, was published by Penguin in November 2025.

New! Daisy in the Rain

Friday, February 6 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

These are not your old colored pencils!! They are a wax and oil based pencil that gives brilliant color, and that can be blended to make another beautiful color. The pencils are easy to use, no solvents necessary, no turpentine smell, and no paint on your hands or clothes. Realism is possible, and abstraction can be fun too. I will help you draw your flower and then show you how to color and shade them to make some beautiful petals and leaves. If you want to add rain and drips...I will show you how to add them too. We will use an 8x10 Mat Board and will use colored pencils to sketch and color a Daisy of your own design. I will provide all the supplies for the student to use. That includes the mat board, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and fixative for the finished design.

Donna Juras graduated from Stephens College in Columbia Missouri with an Associate of Arts Degree. She worked as Exhibit Coordinator for The Art Center, in Mount Clemens, Michigan, and at B.R.A.C. Donna works and teaches in many media. Pastel, colored pencil, oil, and pen & ink are her personal favorites.

New! Valentine's Spa Day

Monday, February 9 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

Pamper yourself this Valentine's Day with an herbal spa day! Unwind as you're guided through several all-natural herbal skincare treatments including a facial steam, clay mask and a hydrating facial serum. Learn about the benefits of these skin nourishing remedies while you indulge in self-care and relaxation. Everything is provided so join us for a day of relaxation, connection, and botanical bliss.

Brooke Parrow is a Clinical Herbalist and Integrative Nutritionist with a passion for helping others achieve vibrant health and wellness. With years of experience in the wellness industry, she guides clients on a transformative journey toward holistic healing, incorporating herbs, nutrition, movement, and mindfulness. Brooke is dedicated to empowering individuals to take charge of their health by addressing the root causes of imbalances, rather than merely masking symptoms. Through her workshops and classes, she shares her deep knowledge of herbal medicine and natural health, providing practical tools and remedies to support both body and mind.

New! Scandals and Affairs Through the Ages

Monday, February 9 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Scandals and affairs have had major effects on history. What is a scandal, what is an affair, and why are they so appealing and notorious? The course will largely deal with important, powerful, and independent women who have throughout history guided cultures and changed events, working through social and political barriers to get what they wanted. Join us while we learn about Cleo, Theodora, Madame P., Lola, Lady H., Jennie C., Catherine, JFK, and Lucy Mercer.

Glen Moulder has always been drawn to water, whether it's sailing, power boating, or paddling. In addition to Glen's passion for water activities, he is also an amateur historian and has extensive experience in public speaking from his previous career.

New! Women: Finding Yourself in Your Art

2 Tuesdays, February 10 and 17 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Have you ever wanted to escape (even just for an hour) and let your imagination take you to a new place? Well, here is the setting and the environment for that to happen. In these sessions, and following a short meditation, we will let art activities remind us of childhood, good times, and stories that might be shared. Using canvas boards, found objects, and a variety of crafting materials, we will encourage creativity to roam free. Each participant may create their own canvas board and a clay spirit rattle. Most importantly, fun will be the top priority. All supplies for the sessions will be provided.

Penny Brunner was a university professor for many years. After a cancer diagnosis, she turned to art courses for healing. Painting, drawing, and pottery became great sources of joy. **Kim Trella** has been studying multimedia art for the past 22 years. Her courses included watercolor, acrylics, collage, and wool felting among others. Following a stroke, Kim's art allowed her point of reference to shift from her illness to the creation of beauty.

New! Skeleton Stories: Forensic Anthropology at Clemson University

Wednesday, February 11 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

You may not know that bones can talk. Dr. Katherine Weisensee will prove otherwise by sharing with us how bones tell powerful stories about identity, life, and death. Working in the field and lab, she examines skeletal remains to determine details like age, sex, trauma, and health history. Dr. Weisensee often assists coroners with unidentified remains, using her expertise to provide answers for families and communities. The work isn't just scientific, it's human. Each bone represents a real person, and her goal is to give voice to those who can no longer speak. She will share how each skeleton holds a unique story waiting to be uncovered and understood.

Dr. Katherine Weisensee is a Professor of Anthropology and the Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. Her work focuses on forensic anthropology and skeletal biology, with specific research interests in improving methods for estimating postmortem intervals. She has developed the geoFOR app to help law enforcement estimate the time of death and is also a consultant for law enforcement in South Carolina.

New! Different Generations, Different Perspectives

2 Thursdays, February 12 and 19 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Do you feel like you understand your grandchildren, or are they a bit of a mystery to you? *It's not just you.* The emerging generations (Gen Z and Generation Alpha) are unique in history. Their values and priorities are different from previous generations. This course will help you understand the differences between and similarities among generations, as well as the intergenerational and intragenerational issues driving (mis)communication. Ultimately, you will walk away from the course with lessons learned that can allow each generation to work toward ensuring the emerging generations are healthy and thriving, now and into the future.

Dr. Paul Shotsberger is a retired professor of education who has been a student of modern culture for over 40 years, teaching, interacting with, and observing students from Gen X through Generation Alpha. He has served shoulder to shoulder with multi-generational teams and has come to love the emerging generations and their unique personalities.

New! Exploring Hartwell Dam: Its History, Purpose, and People

Thursday, February 12 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

It's undeniably big, its lake covering thousands of acres. A lot of us enjoy its rewards, whether fishing or cruising on it, or picnicking on its shores. Usually, we enjoy those benefits as tourists. Come spend a few hours appreciating a more comprehensive picture of what Hartwell Dam does for us, helping us understand its big role in our lives. It begins with general facts and a historical background, tracing the dam's development and the congressional authorities that authorized its construction and continued operation. The discussion then explores Hartwell's significant contributions to hydropower generation and flood control, highlighting its importance in regional infrastructure and safety. Additionally, the presentation examines the dam's impact on recreation, showcasing opportunities for boating, fishing, and tourism. It also delves into natural resource management, shoreline management, and land management practices that ensure the area's sustainability and public access. Finally, the course addresses environmental compliance efforts that balance development and conservation, emphasizing Hartwell Dam's ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of natural and community resources.

US Army Corps of Engineers staff will provide this enlightening presentation.

New! Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!!! Mardi Gras Celebration

Tuesday, February 17 | 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

Participants will join **Terie Dreussi-Smith, Jackie Ansley** and **Kathy McElvenny** for this full spectrum celebration of Mardi Gras on "Fat Tuesday". The agenda includes baking, Mardi Gras mask making (while the dough rises) and a New Orleans French lesson including Mardi Gras phrases and traditions from Kathy McElvenny's time living in NOLA. We will be making New Orleans King Cakes and Café du Monde style beignets. Each participant will paint and decorate their own Mardi Gras mask (let the glitter, feathers, jewels and hot glue roll!) to wear at the grand finale. The grand celebration will be a Mardi Gras feast complete with our baked treasures, festive masks and the sounds of Zydeco and Dixieland music. Who knows- there may be dancing! Be ready for a special surprise that bubbles – better than the cream cheese icing on the King Cake! Whoever gets the baby in their slice wins a door prize!

New! Anxiety: What Helps and What Doesn't?

Tuesday, February 17 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Sometimes anxiety seems to take over, no matter how much we try to stay calm. Come learn about what makes anxiety worse, as well as methods that can help reduce anxiety. The program will include the following: information on the latest methods to reduce anxiety, demonstrations of techniques that can help calm, and time for you to ask questions about anxiety. This workshop is designed for people who face intermittent or constant anxiety and those people who help others who are often anxious.

Eunice Lehmacher, LISW-CP, has worked as a medical social worker and psychotherapist in Oconee County for more than 20 years. She specializes in geriatrics, dementia, depression and anxiety and has taught many classes on

various mental health topics. Eunice enjoys leading interactive classes and support groups on a variety of mental health topics which help adults to make choices that can lead to a healthier life.

Wheel of the Year

Thursday, February 19 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Seasons and their annual cycle are one of the fundamentals of life. Every culture is aware of this cycle, and some enshrine it by linking their cycle of celebrations and mythologies to it. The ancient Celts were among those cultures. Along with other pre-Christian religions, the Celts linked their mythology and their holidays to the rhythm of the seasons, the solstices and equinoxes, and the midpoints or crossquarter holidays. You can recognize vestiges of those holidays surviving in our own celebrations, including Halloween, Groundhog Day, and traditions from the vernal equinox that have migrated to Easter. We will explore these Celtic traditions, many of them revived by Wiccans: the underlying myths, how these holidays were and are celebrated, and how they continue to appear in different ways in contemporary culture.

Holley Ulbrich is a frequent OLLI teacher. A retired economics professor at Clemson University, she has a longtime interest in British history and particularly the life and culture of her Celtic and religious forebears.

The Women Who Helped Defeat Hitler: Espionage, Sabotage and Resistance

Thursday, February 19 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Keowee Key Event Center, Salem | Tuition: \$19

War has been looked on as men's work. Espionage, however, is anyone's game. A game in which women often excelled. This course will explore government agencies created in WWII (OSS and SOE) specifically to perform undercover operations with an emphasis on their most notable female spies and the missions they led. We will explore training, tactics, successes, and the price paid for their success. We will also discuss the Resistance movement and their often perilous assignments.

JoAnn Panza grew up in a community of Hungarian Jews who survived the horrors of concentration camps. As an adult, in her healthcare profession she had the privilege of treating many WWII veterans. The accounts of their experiences inspired many years of independent research focusing recently on the incredible history of female spies. It is JoAnn's desire to share the story of the women who helped defeat Hitler and make their names known.

Strong and Steady: Fall Prevention and Recovery

Tuesday, February 24 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | AMP Physical Therapy, Clemson | Tuition: \$19

You may know that falls are a common experience for people as they age. What you may not know is that learning HOW to fall and having the knowledge to get back up independently is possible through proper instruction. This lecture and hands on experience will take you through statistics on why falls happen and who is predisposed to falling. In the second part of the class, we will get on the ground, learn to get back up, and learn to fall safely. With the guidance of three Physical Therapists, you will leave this course feeling more confident and have tools to work on becoming safer on your feet. If you don't feel comfortable actually moving with us, we encourage you to still attend and gain the knowledge.

Elisa Turner owns AMP Physical Therapy and Performance in Clemson, SC with her husband. She is passionate about helping people with their physical therapy and personal wellness needs. **Jessica Francois** is a board-certified clinical specialist in geriatric physical therapy. She has been practicing in the upstate South Carolina area for the past five years and is passionate about teaching health and wellness topics for seasoned adults.

The Odyssey

2 Wednesdays, February 25 and March 4 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

The Odyssey is considered one of the great works of literature and its timeless themes of home, order and disorder, hospitality, fidelity, and loyalty still resonate in our society. The poem tells the tale of the Greek hero Odysseus and his journey home after the fall of Troy. He is basically one of the "coolest" men of Ancient Greece: smart, strong, attractive, brave, and either loved or hated by the gods. The story is full of adventure, danger, and suspense, in a fantastic world full of strange creatures like Cyclopes, witches, sirens, and gods. What drives the hero throughout the 10-year-long journey is the desire to go home, to see a familiar face, to kiss his wife, and to give his old dog a pat on the head. The class will be offered to "whet your appetite" to read the whole story later.

Marina Viotto Joyce is a native of Italy who moved to the United States 51 years ago. She returns to Italy to visit her family and friends once a year, giving her an opportunity to keep an eye on the constantly changing society.

Seven Deadly Estate Planning Mistakes

Thursday, February 26 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Many estate plans fail. They fail - not because they weren't created - but because they were misinterpreted, outdated, or improperly implemented. In this eye-opening course led by a seasoned wealth advisor, participants will examine seven common estate planning mistakes that often result in unintended tax consequences, disinherited heirs, and costly legal issues! Attendees will learn the difference between what a Will has authority over and what a Trust does for your legacy. With a focus on real-world examples, this class will explore how improper asset structure, titling and poor trustee choices can unravel even the most well-drafted plans. While not a substitute for legal advice, this session empowers attendees to better prepare before meeting with an attorney - saving time, money, and heartache - while learning how to find the right professionals, including estate attorneys and corporate trustees.

With over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry, **Carolyn Bare** specializes in management of investment and tax and estate planning. Carolyn focusses on those areas particularly for families with scary heirs, special needs loved ones or families with complex family dynamics. Avantax is a distinct community within Cetera Wealth Services, LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Wealth Services, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC, a registered investment adviser. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.

New! From Ringing to Remembering: The Science of Hearing, Tinnitus, and the Brain

Thursday, February 26 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Our ears and brains work together in remarkable ways—and modern science is uncovering just how powerful that connection is. Hearing loss doesn't just affect conversations; it influences memory, focus, and even long-term cognitive health. Tinnitus, once dismissed as “just ringing,” is now understood as a complex brain-based condition with real treatment options. In this session, Dr. Alexandra Tarvin will dive into the latest research on: The auditory system's role in cognition and aging; Brain mechanisms behind tinnitus and sound perception; Evidence-based approaches to hearing technology and therapy; and How supporting your hearing supports overall brain health. If you enjoy learning the “why” behind health and science, you'll leave with a deeper understanding of how hearing and brain function intertwine—and how new discoveries can improve quality of life.

Dr. Alexandra Tarvin, Board Certified in Audiology, specializes in hearing impairment, tinnitus, and auditory sensitivity disorders. She provides comprehensive education on audiological care and since 2018 practices at Elevate Audiology.

New! Blueprint For Living

Thursday, February 26 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Would you build a house without a blueprint? So, why go through life without a blueprint for living? For over 40 years, Danny Markus relied on continually revised and improved systems to organize and carry out his life. Ten years ago, in retirement, he designed a "Blueprint for Living" to help assure the hours of his day are invested in activities he deems to be important and worthwhile. These prioritized activities are thoughtfully identified and nested with seven realms - spirit, mind, body, relationships, service, administrative, and interests. This is a fast-moving, highly interactive and personal course where we will go step-by-step through the process of designing your own blueprint for living.

Danny Markus retired on Lake Keowee in 2015 after spending nine years in post-secondary education and has been a Mensa member since 1992. Danny's "Blueprint for Living" is a life-living tool he designed to optimize the time in a day invested in prized and prioritized activities. He'd be most happy to share this tool with you.

Intermediate Stained Glass

7 Weekdays, March 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 | 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Kathy Carroll's Studio, Seneca | Tuition: \$79

Developing a design for a stained-glass panel requires two important components: an artistically pleasing idea and the knowledge to transfer that idea into a workable template. Participants will explore basic design elements, then utilize stained glass to incorporate these elements into an original design. Students will then fabricate their design, using lead came, zinc came and solder to interlock glass pieces and frame the completed 24 x 24 inch square panel. Registrants must have taken the "Beginner Stained Glass" OLLI course or have experience in copper foil or lead came stained glass procedures. Each person should bring a 24 x 24 inch work board that has a raised right angle on only two sides. All other materials will be provided.

Favorite OLLI instructor Kathy Carroll has crafted with glass for more than 40 years. She has taken workshops and attended conferences in various locations throughout the United States and has worked with cold glass, slumped and fused glass and blown glass. She has taught stained glass classes, as well as created commissioned work. Kathy's team of helpers, **Sylvia Titus**, **Nancy Bock** and **Jack McKenna** have been doing stained glass for over 10 years. Sylvia has extensive color and design experience. Nancy retired from the Oconee schools and is a great teacher. Jack has extensive experience with soldering and framing in glass.

New! Mix, Bake, Shake! Kugel and Hamantaschen Celebration

Tuesday, March 3 | 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

Kugel is a baked casserole, or pudding most commonly made from egg noodles (sweet) or shredded potatoes (savory) for many of our family gatherings and holidays. This is a tradition that has been passed down in my family. We will make both and top off the class with a Hamantaschen pastry/cookie and some "groggers" noise. Bring a container to take some home. Sharing food is another tradition!

Rose Schecter was born in New York to a family with deep Eastern European roots (Ashkenazi Jewish heritage). Her maternal grandmother, who survived the Warsaw Ghetto, was a cook who used empty jelly jars as makeshift measuring cups to create her dishes. Over the years, Rose has lovingly adapted her grandmother's recipes, from both sides, sisters and friends infusing them with her own creative touches.

New! Mindful Ukulele

4 Wednesdays, March 4 to 25 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$49

Dust off that ukulele sitting in the corner, borrow one from a friend, indulge a secret desire on Amazon, or celebrate your luck at a neighborhood garage sale! You deserve the pleasure of joining this uplifting four-week series designed for beginners to explore the ukulele as a tool for mindfulness, creativity, and fun. Learn simple chords, melodies, and familiar tunes while discovering how sound, breath, and rhythm can bring calm and connection. Come as you are—no musical background required! (A limited number of ukuleles are available; please note this when you enroll.)

Christy Williamson has been a lifelong musician and has been teaching guitar, ukulele, and voice over 15 years. She has been a student of mindfulness for 14 years. Christy is the owner of InTune Rhythm in Pendleton and lives in Pendleton with her husband and two teenagers. When she's not teaching or playing guitar, you will find her reading, playing with her four dogs, or taking (or teaching) a yoga class.

All Things Plants

Monday, March 9 | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

In this class, you'll learn valuable gardening tips and techniques from Sharon McMahan, a seasoned gardener with a passion for native plants, perennials, and shrubs. Through this course, Sharon will share her wealth of horticulture knowledge, guiding you through the essential practices to help your plants thrive. Expect to learn how to avoid common mistakes, care for a variety of plants, and cultivate a garden that tells your unique story.

Sharon McMahan's gardening journey began with a few houseplants in her dorm room, but after retiring she turned her passion for plants into a full-time endeavor. Today, she runs a business focused on native plants, perennials, and shrubs for southeastern gardens.

New! Make & Take: Herbal-Infused Oils & Salves

Monday, March 9 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$39

Join Brooke of Wild Healing for a relaxed, educational workshop on the art of making herbal-infused oils and healing salves. You'll learn how to turn everyday herbs into powerful skin-supportive remedies and discover the benefits of plants like calendula, comfrey, lavender, plantain, and more. Brooke will guide you step-by-step through the process of creating your own herbal salve — a soothing, all-natural balm that's perfect for dry skin, minor scrapes, or everyday aches. You'll also learn how to make your own herbal-infused oils at home so you can continue crafting natural remedies long after the class. You'll take home: one 2oz herbal salve you make in class, a recipe and instructions to create more at home, and knowledge about herbs and oils that support healthy skin and healing. All materials are included. No experience necessary — just come ready to learn, connect, and enjoy a cozy afternoon exploring the healing power of plants.

Brooke Parrow is a Clinical Herbalist and Integrative Nutritionist with a passion for helping others achieve vibrant health and wellness. With years of experience in the wellness industry, she guides clients on a transformative journey toward holistic healing, incorporating herbs, nutrition, movement, and mindfulness. Brooke is dedicated to empowering individuals to take charge of their health by addressing the root causes of imbalances, rather than merely masking symptoms. Through her workshops and classes, she shares her deep knowledge of herbal medicine and natural health, providing practical tools and remedies to support both body and mind.

Genealogy 101

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 10 and 11 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

Where to start? A good idea would be to start with this class on the basics of genealogical research. Learning what Nan will tell you will likely save you time and produce better results. These two sessions will teach you how to perform genealogical research, understand the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use each, how to find an ancestor's maiden name, and so much more. The second session will cover how to do research on various Websites. Handouts will be provided to cover all the ins and outs of genealogy research and how to navigate various useful websites. Come join the thousands already enjoying this fascinating pastime!

Nan Jones has a B.A. from Wake Forest College and a Master of Education and History degree from UNC Charlotte. She served three years on the National Council for the Social Studies and was an officer at the state level for six years. She has taught genealogy classes through OLLI, Clemson African- American Art Museum, Artist Loft, Tamasee DAR School, and Oconee Heritage Center.

We Do It Different Down Here

Wednesday, March 18 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

In so many ways South Carolina is a fascinating state; we do things our own way. Take our government, for example. No other state has county delegations that consist of legislators exercising control over county affairs and school districts. Also, compared to other states, our college tuition is very high and our gas tax is very low. Here's another head-scratcher: our property tax triples the tax burden on identical houses if one is rented while the other is owner-occupied. And that's just for starters! Come have some fun learning about what "doing things our own way" means here in your adopted (or native!) state and local government. Professor Ulbrich will help you understand not just the *what*, but the historical *why* of how things are the way they are in South Carolina.

Holley Ulbrich is a frequent OLLI teacher. A retired economics professor at Clemson University and a long-time leader in state and local Leagues of Women Voters, Holley has extensive experience in South Carolina state and local government as a teacher, researcher, and even city council member.

The Confederate Submarine Hunley: A Tale, A Mystery, A Controversy

Thursday, March 19 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Keowee Key Event Center, Salem | Tuition: \$19

The tale: the Confederate Submarine H. L. Hunley was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy warship. But the sub and its crew never made it back to dry land. The mystery: why did it sink? The controversy: even the location of its watery grave was unknown for over a century, and a controversy exists about who first discovered its location. Come join us to reveal answers to both mystery and controversy. We'll reveal the rest of the Hunley story including

an extremely delicate recovery of the fragile remaining hulk of the Hunley, which now resides on display in a Charleston museum, the proper burial of the brave crew, and more details of this fascinating story.

Myles Standish, Ph.D. in astronomy from Yale, spent most of his career at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, providing accurate planetary positions to the spacecraft navigation team as well as to the world's major almanac offices. He has spoken at professional meetings, astronomy departments, civic groups, and was a guest lecturer on the Queen Mary II. Asteroid "3420 Standish" was named in his honor.

Beyond Diet and Exercise: Unlocking the Science Behind Injectable Weight Loss Drugs

Monday, March 23 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

If you've been struggling with weight loss, but skeptical about the new medical treatments that seem to be changing the game, this presentation is for you! During this session, we will discuss the new class of injectable medications, including GLP-1s, GIPs, and SGLT2 inhibitors, (otherwise known as Ozempic and Mounjaro) that can help with weight loss and improve overall health. We'll break down how these medications work, their benefits, potential side effects, and what you should know if you're considering them.

Tara Wright is a seasoned nurse with extensive experience in the field, she has built a solid foundation in clinical practice while expanding her leadership and evidence-based decision-making skills during her time at Clemson University. She holds a doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from Clemson University. Tara is driven by a deep commitment to functional health and holistic prevention. She is dedicated to advancing patient advocacy through healthcare policy and, as an Advanced Care Provider, Tara plans to continue her work with national organizations to implement meaningful change and foster trust and understanding between providers and the communities they serve.

New! A Widow's Journey to Financial Freedom

Tuesday, March 31 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

Widows often experience unique financial challenges. This course offers methods for successfully navigating those challenges and planning for the future. Topics in this course are tailored to those special circumstances, and include updating wills and trusts, revising beneficiary designations, addressing the rising costs of living as a single individual, and identifying valuable community resources. We will also cover trustee services for families with special-needs beneficiaries or complex heirs, along with key investment considerations for widows seeking long-term stability and confidence.

With over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry, **Carolyn Bare** specializes in management of investment and tax and estate planning. Carolyn focusses on those areas particularly for families with scary heirs, special needs loved ones or families with complex family dynamics. Avantax is a distinct community within Cetera Wealth Services, LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Wealth Services, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC, a registered investment adviser. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.



Check out our evening courses!

These offerings provide a flexible and convenient way for OLLI members to participate while still managing their daytime responsibilities, making learning accessible no matter how busy your schedule may be.

New! Breath of Intention and Mindfulness

5 Mondays, January 26 to February 23 | 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$49

Today's world has made having a healthy and calm mind and body essential for all of us. Mindfulness and conscious breathing are practical and essential tools to achieve this. In this class you will learn to harness the power of your breath, along with a way to focus that power by developing an intention to cultivate inner peace. You will use guided breathwork exercises to tap into your amazing inner potential and begin aligning yourself with your highest goals. You can look forward to discovering a deeper, healthier connection with yourself and the world around you.

Reeta Singh is a former faculty member of Clemson University. She is the recipient of the 2022 MLK Award and 2025 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award from Clemson University for her services to Clemson University and the broader Clemson community. She has 25 years of experience in teaching professional communication. She also has a background in teaching wholistic practices to support mental and physical health and wellness. Her mindful breathing classes have helped students deal with day-to-day stress and anxiety.

New! Digital Assets: Understanding the Future of Money

Tuesday, January 27 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

This course provides a foundational overview of digital assets and their growing impact on the global economy. Topics include the distinction between fiat and digital money, Digital Investing education, the historical development of Bitcoin, and the emergence of parallel monetary systems. Participants will critically examine the opportunities and challenges of digital currencies and gain perspective on why engaging in this evolving field is increasingly relevant.

With over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry, **Carolyn Bare** is an accessible resource for business owners, individuals and families seeking clarity and management of their investment, tax and estate planning. Carolyn specializes in these areas particularly for families with scary heirs, special needs loved ones or families with complex family dynamics. Through her firm, Trust Matters Financial, Carolyn combines deep financial expertise with a compassionate, real-world understanding of how emotions, taxes, and relationships intersect with money and legacy plans. Avantax is a distinct community within Cetera Wealth Services, LLC. Securities offered through Cetera Wealth Services, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory Services offered through Cetera Investment Advisers LLC, a registered investment adviser. Cetera is under separate ownership from any other named entity.

New! Shadows of the Scepter: Occult Belief and Superstition in Tudor England

Wednesday, January 28 | 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19




Note: Presenting via Zoom as part of the Smithsonian Associates program.

Behind the doors of the Tudor royal courts, occult belief quietly shaped the lives of England's most influential monarchs. In this era where Renaissance thought met lingering medieval superstition, historian Cheryl White uncovers how rulers like Henry VII, Henry VIII, Mary I, and Elizabeth I often turned to astrology, alchemy, and omens to navigate political intrigue. Henry VIII consulted astrologers before major decisions; Mary I's reign was shadowed by grim prophecies; and Elizabeth I famously relied on Dr. John Dee, the astrologer who claimed to speak with angels. Even grand events—marriages, coronations, treaties, and military campaigns—were timed according to favorable celestial signs. Drawing on historical accounts, letters, and rare texts such as Dee's *Monas Hieroglyphica* and Reginald Scot's *The Discoverie of Witchcraft*, White reveals a Tudor world where mysticism and power were deeply entwined, offering a striking new perspective on the dynasty through the lens of the supernatural.

Cheryl White is a professor of history at Louisiana State University at Shreveport where she teaches medieval and early modern European history.


New! Jeffrey Epstein: Naked Truth

6 Mondays, February 2 to March 9 | 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Classroom | Tuition: \$69 

Despite the efforts by Republican and Democratic administrations to hide the truth of Jeffrey Epstein's life, much is known about his endeavors. In this journey, we will separate the fact from fiction, the signal from noise. We will see that Epstein was more than a child sexual predator. We will discover how he provided a variety of services to many of the most powerful men on the planet during 40 years of deceit. We will realize, much to our chagrin, that Epstein, far from being an exception, is the "way of the world."

John Powers is a writer and director of narrative and documentary stories. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California with an MFA and BFA in Drama. He began his career as a screenwriter. Later, he returned to performing arts as a producer and presenter of theater and other cultural events. Recently, he has returned to filmmaking, producing several movies. He has published fiction and non-fiction works. He has taught for several universities and colleges in their life-long learning programs.


New! Web Development and Design

5 Tuesdays and 4 Thursdays, February 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, and March 3 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Zoom Virtual Classroom | Tuition: \$59 

Have you ever wondered how websites are created? Well, now's your chance to find out! In this fun and beginner-friendly course which is designed to teach you how to create a website using two ways: the easy and efficient WIX website builder and the hands-on creative approach from scratch using HTML. By the end of the course, you'll have the skills to create a website using both ways. No experience is needed just your computer! Get ready to turn your ideas into reality and have a blast creating an awesome website.

Shaun Manuel is a passionate web development with a strong foundation in both design and coding. With experience in platforms like Wix and HTML and other beginning friendly tools, her teaching style is hands-on and beginner-focused, making web development accessible, engaging, and fun for all learners of all backgrounds. Shaun Manuel enjoys helping others build a website from scratch.

New! How the Civil War Changed Walt Whitman's Poetry

Tuesday, February 10 | 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19 

Note: Presenting via Zoom as part of the Smithsonian Associates program.

When Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter in April of 1861, Walt Whitman declared it "the volcanic upheaval of the nation"—the inception of a war that would dramatically alter the shape and character of American culture. Prior to the war, America's leading writers had been integral to helping the young nation imagine itself, assert its beliefs, and realize its immense potential. When the Civil War erupted, it confronted them with the brutal reality of death on the battlefield as well as the disintegration of the symbolic order they had helped to create. The war demanded new frameworks for understanding the world and new forms of communication that could engage with the immensity of the conflict. It fostered both social and cultural experimentation.

Scholar **Randall Fuller** uses Whitman as a case study to trace the changes in his poetry from idealism to realism, from exuberant democratic celebration to a more chastened view of America as a place where enormous suffering had occurred. Fuller is the Herman Melville Distinguished Professor of 19th-Century American Literature at the University of Kansas.

New! Alternative Dispute Resolution/Conflict Resolution

Tuesday, February 17 | 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19

How many ways are there to settle an argument? Usually more than one would be the right answer, especially if the first answer is litigation! Sherri will give you different - and possibly better - ways to handle conflicts, especially legal conflicts, rather than just relying on litigation in court. Join her to discuss and role play with various forms of alternative dispute resolution. These are "How to Disagree Successfully 101" skills, and it's never too late! Even a simple family gathering at Thanksgiving may go better after this course!

Sherri Marie Carr, a Clemson University alumna, is an attorney admitted to practice law in Georgia and Washington, D.C. Ms. Carr is also a South Carolina Supreme Court certified arbitrator and mediator and a Georgia registered civil mediator and arbitrator. She has an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) practice in Seneca, SC: Leadership, Ltd. Co., which focuses on mediations and arbitrations. In her spare time, Ms. Carr provides pro bono services through various legal entities in South Carolina (through ADR Court Rule 19), Georgia, and DC.

New! Catherine de' Medici: The Powerful Mother of Kings

Thursday, February 19 | 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$19 

Note: Presenting via Zoom as part of the Smithsonian Associates program.

In the 16th century, the Medici family shaped much of the religious and political life of Western Europe. Into this world stepped young Catherine de' Medici, who left her native Florence to marry into the French royal family. When her husband ascended the throne as Henri II, Catherine became Queen Consort—yet she spent years in the shadow of his powerful mistress. How did Catherine rise from this constrained position to become one of the most influential figures in Europe? Historian Carol Ann Lloyd-Stanger explores Catherine's journey—from her early years in Florence to her strategic role in the French court. She examines how Catherine secured her place through dynastic alliances, produced children who would marry into royal houses across the continent, and became a formidable political force during the reigns of her three sons: Francis II, Charles IX, and Henri III. Amid religious and political turmoil, Catherine sought to forge alliances—most notably with Elizabeth I of England, even offering the queen her sons as potential husbands. Her leadership was marked by both diplomacy and controversy, leaving an indelible mark on European history.

Carol Ann Lloyd-Stanger, the author of *The Tudors by Numbers* and *Courting the Virgin Queen*, lectures internationally on the Tudor period and Shakespeare.

New! Core Retirement Strategies

2 Mondays, March 9 and 16 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Cheezem Education Center | Tuition: \$29

The name says it all. What are the fundamentals - the core - of successful management of finances during retirement? Core Retirement Strategies offers a practical guide to establishing that financial framework. The course covers key topics such as maximizing Social Security benefits, understanding required minimum distributions, and developing sustainable spending and investment strategies. Participants will learn how to design a balanced retirement portfolio, create a "pension-like" income stream, and plan for potential long-term care needs. By the end, you'll have a clear framework for building a secure and flexible retirement income plan.

Since 2003, **David Chudyk**, Certified Financial Planner™ has been helping clients make the right financial decisions for the reasons that are important to them. Chudyk believes that "how we handle our money should positively impact our lives and the lives of those around us."

New! Junk Art Class

Tuesday, March 10 | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Keowee Key Event Center, Salem | Tuition: \$49

You will create a fun, funky or whimsical piece such as a cat, a dog, an angel, it's all up to you. You will paint a 12-inch piece of wood or leave it natural and attach your creation to it. You will use rescued pieces of wood, tools, screws, jewelry, cans, plastic, ribbon, flowers or fabric. You decide what items you want to create your piece. Your final project/piece will make a great conversational piece or gift. All supplies are provided.

Carla T. Poirier has been doing arts and crafts her whole life. She has taught art classes, participated in craft sales and sells her artwork at a local bookstore on Ram Cat Alley. She makes greeting cards, name tags, book markers, wreaths, decorates and refurbishes chairs, creates holiday items from wood scraps and other items. She believes in recycling, repurposing and reusing items. She volunteers at Friends of the Library, is a board member of Blue Ridge Arts Center and the executive director for Keep Oconee Beautiful Association.

SHARED INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETINGS

Participation in Shared Interest Groups is free and open to current OLLI Members; contact the Group Facilitator for more information.

Art Group

Every Monday | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Diana Carnes (dianacmail@aol.com)

Backgammon Group

Every Wednesday | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Glen Moulder
(gmoulder41@gmail.com)

Beginning Mah Jongg

Every Wednesday | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Sharon Williamson (sharoncw59@att.net)

Blues Guitar Circle

Every Monday | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Chris Sally (chrissally999@yahoo.com)
Group is currently at capacity. Contact the facilitator before attending.

Book Club

1st Friday Each Month | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Maureen Williamson (williamsonmj@att.net)

Bridge Group

Every Monday and Thursday | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Peg Mahan (pmah2209@bellsouth.net)

Bunco

Last Wednesday Each Month | 1:00 p.m.
Everlan (Patrick Square)
Facilitator: Carol Helander (antiqueguy@gmail.com)

Euchre

2nd and 3rd Monday Each Month | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: C.E. Addis (cedaddis@aol.com)

Gardening Group

1st Wednesday Each Month | 3:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Susan Creamer (smcreamergmail.com)

Long Distance Grandparenting

3rd Wednesday Each Month | 2:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Di Ucci (diucciauthor@gmail.com)

Mah Jongg – Intermediate to Advanced

Every Tuesday | 12:30 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Janice Dieter (dieterjw@yahoo.com)

Needles and Threads

Every Wednesday | 1:30 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Nan Jones (jones4927@bellsouth.net)

Pickleball

Every Friday
Nettles Park (Clemson)
Facilitator: Lauris and Mary Jane Ames
(mames10579@aol.com, laurisames@aol.com)
Time varies; reach out to the facilitators to confirm.

Second-Time-Around Musicians

1st and 3rd Thursday Each Month | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Bob Moir (bobmoir@facilitator4hire.com)

Trivia

4th Friday Each Month | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Skip Eisiminger (esterli2@bellsouth.net)

Watercolor Group

Every Thursday | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Facilitator: Trish Davis (trishkaydavis@gmail.com)

Writers Groups

Group 1:

1st and 3rd Friday Each Month | 10:00 a.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Group is currently at capacity. Contact the facilitator before attending.
Facilitator: Paula Appling (upst8hiker@gmail.com)

Group 2:

2nd and 4th Thursday Each Month | 1:00 p.m.
Cheezem Education Center
Contact the facilitator before attending.
Facilitator: Elaine Faithful (belaineffaithful@gmail.com)

Thank *you* from



Dear Member,

First, thank you for being a valued part of OLLI at Clemson and for embracing lifelong learning and exploration here in Upstate South Carolina and beyond. Your curiosity, engagement, and enthusiasm inspire everything we do.

At OLLI, we are proud to offer a diverse range of classes, excursions, travel opportunities, and shared interest groups—all shaped by your feedback and participation. Your involvement helps us continue to grow and provide meaningful experiences for our community of learners.

As a member, you may also wish to help sustain OLLI's mission through a financial contribution. We are deeply grateful to our donors, whose generosity supports both our daily operations and our long-term stability. When considering a gift, many members ask about the two ways to give:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Endowment – Supports OLLI's long-term operational funding in honor of Provost Robert Jones. Our goal is to reach \$50,000, and thanks to generous donors, we have already raised \$32,660.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute – OLLI – At Clemson University – Supports current operational needs, including supplies, instruction, and member services.

Every gift—**no matter the amount**—makes a lasting difference in ensuring that OLLI continues to thrive for years to come.

To make your contribution, please visit iamatiger.clemson.edu/giving/olli or contact our office, 864-633-5242, for more information. Together, we can continue to make OLLI at Clemson a vibrant home for lifelong learners.

With gratitude,

Mary Brock
Director
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
Clemson University



Fiercely *Forward* with

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE
OLLI
at Clemson University

Each year, OLLI offers nearly 350 unique programs spanning academic, cultural and recreational interests. And because we keep membership and class fees low, more people can join in the lifelong learning experience.

OLLI depends on the generosity of our community to make this possible. Membership and class fees only cover a portion of the costs necessary to offer our broad selection of programs. Your annual gift helps keep these programs affordable and accessible to everyone wanting to join. Planning for the long term, gifts made to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Endowment Fund help to ensure growth and opportunities for the future.

Make your gift in support of OLLI at Clemson University by calling 864-656-5896 or visiting iamatiger.clemson.edu/giving/olli.

Curious about OLLI or ready to get involved? Visit olliatclemson.org to learn more about courses, registration and the latest information.

**Together, we can carry
the joy of learning
*Fiercely Forward.***

Questions?

Ann Batson Smith '82, M '85
Executive Director of Annual Giving

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P.O. Box 1889
Clemson, SC 29633-1889

CLEMSON
forever | ANNUAL GIVING

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION FORM WINTER 2026

Please complete this form, even if you think we have this information on file.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Gender: Female ☐ Male ☐ Date of Birth (Month, Year): _____

Catalog Format: Email Catalog ☐ U.S. Mail Catalog ☐

Email Communication: Yes ☐ No ☐

Your name, mailing and email addresses will be published in the password-protected online OLLI Member directory. ☐ Check this box if you would like to opt out of the directory.

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

Please note: Each member of a couple must submit a separate form to ensure proper registration.

Half-Year Membership Fee (Memberships purchased now are valid through June 30, 2026.)

I am a NEW OLLI member and paying my first membership fee (\$40) \$ _____

I am renewing my lapsed OLLI membership (\$40) \$ _____

If you are unsure about your membership status, please call the OLLI office at 864-633-5242.

Courses

Course Name: _____ Tuition: \$ _____

Course Name: _____ Tuition: \$ _____

Course Name: _____ Tuition: \$ _____

Donation

Please accept this gift to the Clemson University Foundation on behalf of OLLI at Clemson University.

Please note that 100% of your gift goes to OLLI. Gift: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed (payable to OLLI at Clemson University)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

4 Easy Ways to Register

- Online: www.olliatclermson.org, click the link “online registration” (credit card payment only)
- By Phone: 864-633-5242 (credit card payment only)
- By Mail: 100 Thomas Green Blvd. Clemson, SC 29631 (check or credit card payment)
- In Person at the Cheezem Education Center, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (cash, check or credit card payment)

Refund/Cancellation

If you must cancel your registration in an OLLI course, a full or partial refund may be available to you. Our current refund procedures are listed on our website, www.olliatclermson.org, under the registration policies tab. All Members are encouraged to review this information when registering.

If an OLLI course is cancelled, you will receive a full refund. Payments made by cash and check will be refunded as course credit in your OLLI account; payments made by credit card will be refunded to the credit card.

Wait List

If the course you have requested has filled prior to receiving your registration, you will automatically be placed on a waiting list for the course. Should space become available, you will be contacted and given the opportunity to enroll. You will not be charged for the course until you are enrolled.

Liability Waivers

OLLI members who are enrolled in higher risk courses may be required to sign Waiver and Release of Liability Forms before participating. For more information, visit our website, www.olliatclermson.org.

Accessibility

OLLI at Clemson University is committed to an inclusive and accessible environment for all OLLI Members, and as a Clemson University Institute, follows the spirit of Student Accessibility Services, which can be found at www.clemson.edu/academics/studentaccess. If you have questions about accessibility for a course, please contact the OLLI office at olli@clemson.edu or 864-633-5242; all correspondence will be confidential.

Graduate Research

On occasion, Clemson University faculty and students are interested in working with OLLI Members on research projects specific to engaged aging. Opportunities to participate in such studies will be announced to the OLLI membership via the weekly e-newsletter, and your personal involvement is entirely at your discretion. We do not share your contact information with any group or individual.

Membership Fees

A nonrefundable membership is required to participate in OLLI Courses and activities. The OLLI Member Year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of each year. The membership fee for a full year is \$65; a half-year membership (January to June) is \$40.

Scholarships

Financial assistance may be available for current OLLI Members; for more information, visit our website, www.olliatclermson.org.

Inclement Weather

OLLI follows the Clemson University inclement weather policy. When Clemson University is closed due to inclement weather, all OLLI activities are cancelled or postponed to a later date.

Charles K. Cheezem Education Center

As a Clemson University facility, the Center is tobacco-free and follows campus facility policies.



OLLI at Clemson University
100 Thomas Green Boulevard
Clemson, SC 29631
864-633-5242
olli@clemson.edu
www.olliatclemson.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Clemson, SC
Permit No. 10

Why aren't you here yet?

- Clemson Downs

Why wait? Our residents love living life at Clemson Downs, and you could too! They enjoy fun, food, and fellowship on our beautiful 38-acre wooded and pastoral campus.

Clemson Downs is a locally owned continuing care retirement community offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory, and Skilled Nursing Care designed to meet your or your loved one's care level needs.

864-654-1155



ClemsonDowns.com